



COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Top Policy Priorities Presented to the Health and Human Service Committee of the County Council November 18, 2020

Presenter: Ms. Renae McPherson, Chair

Overview:

The Commission on Children and Youth (CCY) promotes the well-being of Montgomery County's children, youth, and families so that all young people may realize their full potential and become contributing, productive adults. We do this by supporting policy and budget decisions that promote the safety and well-being of children and youth, and by working so that they have access to successful futures.

2020-2021 Commission on Children and Youth Priorities

The Commission will advance its mission in FY 21 through a focus on two priorities:

Priority 1: Strengthening Youth and Law Enforcement Relationships

As a result of the recent concerns regarding the poor interactions between secondary school-aged students of color and the School Resource Officer (SRO), the Commission on Children and Youth seeks to analyze and review the major components and effectiveness of the SRO training program. The Commission intends to use this data to make recommendations on how to inform the development of new structures that enhance the safety and learning of ALL students; eliminate mistreatment of students on the basis of race, disability, and/or sexual orientation and gender identity; and strengthen the relationship between the SRO and the entire school community.

Priority 2: Coordinated Services for Children and Youth

The Commission on Children and Youth seeks to create a public initiative that would ensure the existence and awareness of equitable, inclusive, accessible and supportive infrastructures across all County agencies and institutions. Our aim is that this initiative would help to create a stand-alone coordinating entity that allows for a centralized information platform with accessible directories of resources and supports for children and youth of Montgomery County.

Additionally, the Commission is planning to host a *virtual* version of its annual **Youth Having a Voice** roundtable event. This year will mark the 14th year the Commission has hosted this gathering of teens from across the County to discuss issues that are important in their lives. Not only do youth have the opportunity to speak out, but adults – members of the County Council, Board of Education, HHS senior leadership and others – have the chance to hear, learn, and act on the concerns of the youth. Stay tuned for details!

The Commission is committed to its mission and appreciates your support in our efforts. We look forward to working with you this year. Please feel free to inform us about how we may best support your efforts and partner to benefit the County's children and youth.